

Gastronomy

The Taste of Gaucín



A bijou bodega in the hills of Guacín have made the dreams of a Swede come true, as Louise Cook Edwards discovers. Photography: Gary Edwards

Rickard Enkvist is a perfect example of the power of dreams. A former media man, years ago this convivial and corpulent Swede had a flight of fantasy - to cultivate his own vineyard and create exquisite wines that would be the toast of connoisseurs worldwide.

Over ten years on, the small but perfectly formed Bodegas César is the living embodiment of this dream, and the fruits of Rickard Enkvist's labours have materialized into the production of Sueños, (Dreams) the aptly named award-winning red wine grown and cultivated in the breathtaking setting of the hilltops of Gaucín.



Known locally as the "sueco loco" - to produce premium quality wines in the heat of southern Spain is quite some challenge - but Enkvist has created an environment in which the tempranillo grapes of his choice can thrive, reaping the rewards of the unique microclimate. He also counts on the expertise and TLC of his small but expert team, including passionate enologist, Jose Manuel Cozar, whose experienced nose and palate have helped Enkvist to produce not only drinkable, but award-winning wines in a relatively short time frame.

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A Nose for Quality

Despite his youth, Cozar has learned his trade in some of the best bodegas in Spain. Bodegas Cezar only produce five wines, but Jose Manuel can now boast two awards - the Medalla de Oro for Sueños and the Mezquita de Córdoba award for Sofia, a delicious dessert wine, which tastes simply like liquid gold. This wine is not produced every year, and production is just 4000 bottles - making it a true privilege to open a bottle and savour the honey-coloured, sweet nectar. With similar wines in France retailing at 200 euros a bottle, Sofia is a rare, and affordable delight at 17€ a bottle.



The Wines of Bodegas Cézar

Sueños - a smooth, mature, sophisticated red, aged in French oak for 3 years.

Prize: Gold Medal -Concurso Nacional de Vinos Premio Mezquita

Eleonor - a blend of Moscatel and Chardonnay grapes - this floral scented white is a perfect complement for sushi, curry and lightly spiced foods.

Astrid - a golden, oaky Chardonnay with a vanilla undertone. Excellent with seafood and cheeses.

Greta - in honour of Swedish goddess of the silver screen, Greta Garbo, her eyes are featured on the label. A rich, young and feisty wine.

Sofia - a sweet, delicious dessert wine, in the "Sauternes" style -

Prizes: Silver Medal - Concurso Nacional de Vinos Premio Mezquita
Gold Medal - CINVE (Concurso internacional de Vinos y Espirituosos)

Champagne - Enkvist wines are proud to have their own house champagne - produced by Florent- Bergeronneau Marion in the Champagne region of France. Delicate and low acidity, it is a delight to celebrate with this reasonably priced champagne.



Savour the Passion

As the wines gain recognition, Enkvist's pride is growing alongside the vines, but the happy owner of this unique vineyard takes greatest pride in seeing people savouring the delectable vintages coming out of Bodegas Cezar. And with this in mind, the bodega invites small groups to tour the facilities and enjoy an informative tasting of the wines on offer. Groups of between 10-25 people can come and enjoy the breathtaking views to the Straits of Gibraltar, and Morocco beyond, stroll around the finca, view the facilities and enjoy the enriching experience of tasting the wines with delicious, freshly-prepared hot and cold tapas, for just 20€ per person. Among the tempting and exquisitely presented morsels were tiny spinach quiche, blinis with egg and caviar, chicken skewers with hazelnut sauce, cheese straws and lemon tarts. For a more complete day, visitors can opt for a 3-course meal, for 50€ a head, and even stay at a nearby boutique hotel, as well as enjoying the visit, for just 89€ per person. At Bodegas Cezar you can taste the love and attention lavished on every vine, grape and bottle produced, so what are you waiting for...

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Avant-garde pathways
Picasso Born house museum-Cezar



And if you are far away from Andalucia, but still yearn to savour this unique taste from the hills of Gaucin, the good news is that you can order online. www.enkvistwines.com

